tonnes and the total sale value of this coal account MSEB is Rs. 632.43 crores.

(b) According to information furnished by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) the coal sale outstandings due to CIL from MSEB which stood at the level of Rs. 245.75 crores as on 31-3-1992 have risen to Rs. 248.76 crores as on 31-10-1992.

Decontrol of Coal

988. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are actively considering decontrol of coal;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of industrial units submitted representations that the decontrol would further strengthen the clout of the coal mafia operating in Northern coalfields; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government on these representations particularly from the small industrial units ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) Government in Ministry of Coal have received a proposal to decontrol the prices of higher grades of coal.

(b) A few representations have also been received against increasing prices of higher grades of coal.

(c) It has been noticed that due to restricted availability of higher grades of coal, these are being traded in the open market at a price which is much higher than their controlled price. It has been suggested that in case the prices of higher grades of coal were decontrolled, the difference between the market price and the controlled price could accrue to the producing coal companies, which in turn will improve their economic viability.

Supply of poor quality of coal to Raichur Thermal Power Station

989. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that very poor quality of coal continues to be supplied to the Raichur Thermal power station in Karnataka, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to the supply of poor quality of coal, the Raichur Thermal Power Station is finding it very difficult to run all units economically and efficiently; and

(c) if so, what are the corrective steps Government propose to take to rectify the serious situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) is originally linked to Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) and generally there are no complaints regarding quality of coal supplied from SCCL. However, since SCCL is not able to meet the full requirement of RTPS due to less availability of coal, the short supply is being met from WCL sources. Recently the linkage for RTPS from WCL has been substantially reduced and more quantity is linked for supply from SCCL.

Complaints have been received from Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) regarding receipt of lumpy and sticky coal and presence of extraneous materials in the coal supplied from Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL). These complaints have been looked into and WCL have taken remedial measures to improve the quality of coal.

Short supply of coal to Western Region Electricity Boards

990. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Western Region Electricity Boards are facing acute shortage of coal for generating power in their respective power plants;

(b) whether Western Region Electricity Boards have submitted their reports to Government demanding release of coal on periority basis; and

(c) What is the actual quota of each State Electricity Board ?